

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00

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COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04

TRSE-00 CIEP-01 CEA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, EGEN, EAID

SUBJECT: UNCTAD: IGG ON LEAST DEVELOPED AMONG THE DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES - ATMOSPHERICS OF MEETING

REF: GENEVA 5560, 5582 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. THE IGG ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED AMONG THE
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WAS MARKED BY VERY ACRIMONIOUS STATEMENTS
BY THE LEADER OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED (SUDAN), PRESUMING TO
SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE GROUP OF 77. THE CAUCUSES OF
THE G-77 REACHED SUCH A HIGH DEGREE OF CONTROVERSY THAT THE
COLOMBIAN DELEGATION WALKED OUT OF THE CAUCUS, THREATENING TO
EXPOSE SUDAN'S HIGH-HANDED TACTICS WITHIN THE G-77 IN
PLENARY. VIS-A-VIS THE GROUP B COUNTRIES, THE SUDANESE
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DELEGATE MAINTAINED A POSTURE OF UNCOMPROMISING AND UNREALISTIC

DEMANDS, CHARACTERIZING THE RLDC'S NEEDS FOR ASSISTANCE AS "THEIR LEGAL ENTITLEMENTS". THE CONFRONTATIONAL ATMOSPHERE CULMINATED IN ALL NIGHT DRAFTING GROUP SESSION WITH SOMALIAN DELEGATE CALLING FOR THE U.S. TO GET OUT OF THE UN AND SUDAN ACCUSING U.S. OF ALWAYS ATTEMPTING TO UNILATERALLY BREAK-UP MEETINGS WHEN THE U.S. DEL WALKED OUT OF MEETING AT 3:45 IN THE MORNING. IN THE FINAL IGG PLENARY AT 2:30 ON SATURDAY MORNING, THE SUDANESE DELEGATE CAPPED HIS PERFORMANCE IN A CAREFULLY TIMED FINAL INTERVENTION (ONLY SEVEN MINUTES OF INTERPRETER TIME LEFT) IN WHICH, AGAIN SPEAKING AS SPOKESMAN OF G-77, HE ACCUSED BOTH GROUP B AND GROUP D OF HAVING COME TO THE IGG TO DICTATE TERMS AND GIVE CHARITY, STATING RLDC'S REJECTED CHARITY AND REPEATED THAT THEY WERE ONLY DEMANDING WHAT THEY WERE "LEGALLY ENTITLED TO." HE STATED RLDC'S HAD MET WITH "ONLY SABOTAGE FROM THE SUPER-POWER MEMBERS OF GROUPS B AND D" WHO HAD DONE NOTHING TO HELP THE LEAST DEVELOPED. NO MEMBER OF THE G-77 DISASSOCIATED ITSELF FROM THE STATEMENT, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL APOLOGIZED TO THE U.S. DEL AFTERWARDS, STATING THAT THE INTERVENTION WAS NOT CLEARED WITH G-77 AS A WHOLE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SESSIONS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON THE PROBLEMS OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED WERE MARKED BY EXTREME CONTROVERSY AND CONFRONTATION DESPITE THE BEST EFFORTS OF THE MEMBERS OF GROUP B, GROUP D AND THE MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF 77 TO AVOID SUCH DIFFICULTIES. THE BLAME CAN BE PLACED SQUARELY ON THE CHARACTER AND APPROACH OF THE SUDANESE DELEGATE (FADL IDRIS, DESCRIBED AS A "CONSULTANT" FROM LONDON) WHO HAD LED THE G-77 IN THE 14TH BOARD TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION TO CONVENE THE IGG. HIS CONFRONTATIONAL TACTICS WERE NOT CONFINED TO ENCOUNTERS WITH GROUP B ALONE, BUT GENERATED SUCH HEATED ARGUMENTS WITHIN THE CAUCUSES OF THE G-77 ITSELF THAT THE PROCEEDINGS WERE LONG DELAYED WHILE THIS GROUP ATTEMPTED TO RESOLVE ITS DIFFERENCES. VIS-A-VIS THE GROUP B NEGOTIATORS, THE SUDANESE APPROACHED EVERY PROBLEM WITH THE MAXIMUM INPUT OF DEMAGOGUERY AND THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE. HIS PERFORMANCE WITHIN THE G-77 WAS SO INTRANSIGENT, BIASED AND ARBITRARY AS TO CAUSE A REVOLT WITHIN THE G-77 WITH THE RESULT THAT AT LEAST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ONE DELEGATION (COLOMBIA) WALKED OUT OF THE CAUCUS THREATENING TO DENOUNCE THE PROCEEDING IN PLENARY. ONLY AFTER MANY HOURS OF CAUCUSES WERE THE G-77 ABLE TO PAPER OVER THINLY THEIR DIFFERENCES, OBVIOUSLY IN THE EXPECTATION THAT GROUP B WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING THE ELIMINATION OF PROVISIONS IN THE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS WHICH EVEN THEY THEMSELVES FOUND OBJECTIONABLE. THE G-77 THEN PROCEEDED TO MINIMIZE THEIR PARTICIPATION

IN THE "NOSE-TO"NOSE" NEGOTIATING GROUP, SENDING REPRESENTATIVES OF SUDAN, SOMALIA, HAITI AND ECUADOR TO REPRESENT THEM. (THE ONLY NON-LEAST DEVELOPED PRESENT WAS ARTURO ONTANEDA, ATTACHE OF EDUADOREAN MISSION, WHO ONLY LAST SEMESTER GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA.) GROUP D IN THE NEGOTIATING GROUP WAS CONTENT TO REMAIN SILENT, PLACING ALSO ITS HOPES ON GROUP B BEING ABLE TO NEGOTIATE AN ACCEPTABLE RESOLUTION.

3. THE NEGOTIATING GROUP COMMENCED ITS EFFORTS AT 4:30 THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND CONTINUED TO 4:30 FRIDAY MORNING WITH EVERY SINGLE LINE OF THE SUBSTANTIVE PARTS OF THE TEXT BEING SUBJECTED TO ENDLESS HAGGLING AND BEING GREETED BY THE SUDANESE DELEGATE WITH EXTREME SUSPICION AND DEROGATORY COMMENTARY. IN RESPONSE TO A U.S. EFFORT TO EXPLAIN THAT THE DELEGATION HAD NO AUTHORITY TO AGREE TO THE EXTREME CLAIMS MADE IN THE RESOLUTION AND THAT NO MAJORITY VOTE WOULD AUTOMATICALLY CHANGE THE U.S. POSITIONS, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF SOMALIA (ALI HASSAN ALI, COMMERCIAL COUNSELLOR, BRUSSELS) INVITED THE U.S. TO GET OUT OF THE UN SINCE IT ALWAYS ATTEMPTED TO FRUSTRATE THE MAJORITY WILL. ONCE IT BECAME CLEAR (3:45 A.M. FRIDAY) THAT NO FURTHER FURTHER PROGRESS COULD BE MADE ON THE SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTION, THE SUDANESE DELEGATION ATTEMPTED TO CONTINUE WITH THE RESOLUTION ON CONVENING ON THE IGG ON PERMANENT BASIS. AT THIS POINT THE U.S. DEL REFUSED TO ENGAGE IN FURTHER NEGOTIATION ONLY TO BE ACCUSED BY THE SUDANESE OF ATTEMPTING TO UNILATERALLY BREAK UP THE MEETING (DESPITE THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THE GROUP B COORDINATOR AND ONE OR TWO OTHER DELEGATES). THE RESULT OF THE U.S. WALKOUT WAS A CALMING EFFECT ON THE SUDANESE SINCE FAIRLY RAPID AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON RECONVENING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESOLUTION AND, EVEN MORE HELPFULLY, ALSO RESULTED IN THE SUDANESE DELEGATE BEING "DIPLOMATICALLY ILL" WHEN THE NEGOTIATING GROUP RESUMED THE NEXT DAY. UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE DELEGATE OF DAHOMEY (AMB. SEMADJIBADE FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION IN NEW YORK), RELATIVELY RAPID AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE POINTS THAT COULD NOT BE AGREED TO THAT SAME MORNING.

4. AT THE FINAL PLENARY THE SUDANESE REASSUMED THE LEADERSHIP OF THE G-77 AND, CAREFULLY TIMING HIS STATEMENT TO COINCIDE WITH THE LAST MINUTES OF THE AVAILABILITY OF INTERPRETATION SERVICES, LAUNCHED A DIATRIBE AGAINST GROUP B MEMBERS AND GROUP D MEMBERS AS WHOLE, STATING THEY HAD ONLY COME TO THE MEETING TO DICTATE TERMS TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (NOT JUST

THE LEAST DEVELOPED) AND TO GIVE CHARITY. HE CATEGORICALLY REJECTED THE NEED FOR CHARITY, CHARACTERIZING THE LEAST DEVELOPED'S DEMANDS FOR ASSISTANCE AS THEIR LEGAL ENTITLEMENT. HE SINGLED OUT THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION BY STATING THAT SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF B AND D, PARTICULARLY THE SUPER-POWERS AMONG THEM, HAD SYSTEMATICALLY SABOTAGED THE MEETINGS OF THE IGG.

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5. FOLLOWING THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING, THE SUDANESE DELEGATE ATTEMPTED TO APPROACH THE U.S. DEL IN A "NO HARD FEELINGS" GESTURE WHICH WAS REJECTED. SEVERAL G-77 DELEGATES ALSO APPROACHED THE U.S. DEL TO DISASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH THE STATEMENT OF THE SUDANESE, STATING IT HAD NOT BEEN CLEARED AS A G-77 POSITION. SEVERAL MORE DESCRIBED THEIR UNHAPPINESS WITH THE CONCLUSION OF THE DEBATE ON THE FOLLOWING MONDAY MORNING.

AMONG THESE WERE INDIA, IRAQ, ETHIOPIA AND COLOMBIA.

6. COMMENT: WHILE THE CAREFUL TIMING BY SUDAN OF HIS FINAL STATEMENT PRECLUDED ANY REBUTTAL, THE MISSION DOES NOT PLAN TO LET THE MATTER REST THERE. THE MISSION PLANS TO SEND AN OFFICIAL NOTE TO THE COORDINATOR OF THE G-77 REQUESTING THAT GROUP TO ISSUE A STATEMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FORMALLY DISASSOCIATING ITSELF WITH THE SUDANESE DIATRIBE. THIS COURSE OF ACTION HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF GROU D (POLAND) WHO STATED THAT THEY MIGHT TAKE SIMILAR ACTION. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE G-77, WHILE NOT WELCOMING BEING PLACED IN THE SPOTLIGHT BY THE PROPOSED U.S. ACTION, STATED THEY COULD UNDERSTAND WHY WE FELT SUCH ACTION WAS NECESSARY. DALE

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